

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 and 20-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-11, 16-18, and 20-25 are allowed. Claims 12-15 are rejected.

The Examiner rejects claim 12 under §112 for being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner argues that claim 12 provides a use of a digital signal processor, but because the claim “does not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass.” *See* Office Action, p. 2. Because the claim merely recites a user without any active steps, according to the Examiner, claim 12 is indefinite. *Id.* The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Claim 12 is directed to an apparatus, and not to a method/process as the Examiner suggests. The Examiner’s reference to a “method/process” in the context of the apparatus of claim 12 is unclear to the Applicants. The claimed apparatus includes a digital signal processor that is capable of, among other things, determining a loop voltage based on a synthesized curve in the current limit region. Thus, contrary to the Examiner’s assertion, the claim itself specifies that the digital signal processor is capable of performing an active act of determining a loop voltage based on a certain criteria. Additionally, the claim further specifies that this determined loop voltage is then applied to the subscriber line (see last claim element stating that the claimed apparatus includes “a circuitry for applying the loop voltage to the subscriber line”). Thus, as per the language of claim 12, the loop voltage determined by the digital signed processor is applied to the subscriber line. The language of claim 12 is, therefore, clear and unambiguous, and hence definite. For at least these reasons, claim 12 is definite.

In view of reasons presented above, the pending claims are allowable. As such, reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Houston, Texas telephone number (713) 934-4064 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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